



Free Rice to Ration Card Holders | Chhattisgarh | 28 Dec 2023

Why in News?

Recently, the **Chhattisgarh government** has announced free rice through [fair price shops](#) to 67.92 lakh eligible ration card holders **eligible under the [Antyodaya Anna Yojana](#) from January 2024.**

Antyodaya Anna Yojana is the **sponsored scheme of the Government to provide highly subsidized food to millions of the poorest families.**

Key Points

- This **scheme will be implemented for the next five years** from January 2024 to December 2028, under the Chhattisgarh [Food and Nutrition Security Act, 2013](#).
 - Free rice will be **distributed to beneficiaries from priority**, differently abled and extremely poor people's categories.
- As per the food department **there were over 14.92 lakh ration card holders in Antyodaya category:**
 - 52.46 lakh were from priority category,
 - 37,708 from single-destitute category and
 - 15,351 from disabled category.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA):** It ensures access to affordable and good-quality food by subsidizing **food grains to those below the poverty line.**
- **Fair price shops (FPS):** It is a government-run or government-regulated retail outlet or store in India.
 - It is to **distribute essential commodities** like food grains, edible oils, sugar, and other basic necessities to the public at subsidized or fair prices.

New Tourism Policy | Bihar | 28 Dec 2023

Why in News?

Recently, the **Bihar cabinet approved the Bihar Tourism Policy 2023** to attract more investment in the [tourism sector](#).

Key points

- The policy **aims to develop fundamental infrastructure near tourist destinations** in the state and also includes provisions for stakeholders.
- **The new policy contains several financial incentives for investors. These include:**

- Capital subsidy of 30% for investments up to Rs 10 crore.
- 25% for investments up to Rs 50 crore.
- 25% for investments exceeding Rs 50 crore, with a maximum limit of Rs 25 crore.
- 100% reimbursement of land conversion fee, stamp duty and registration fee.
- 80% reimbursement of [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#) on commercial operation for up to 5 years.
- 100% reimbursement of electricity tariff for new tourism units for 5 years.
- Hoteliers and tour operators will get a 5% reimbursement of the monthly remuneration paid to tourist guides. The maximum monthly limit for this will be Rs 5000 per guide for up to 2 years.
- incentives for green certification, MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions) promotions, are also included in the policy.
- 50% of the subsidy will be paid at the commencement of commercial operation, 25% after 2 years, and 25% after 5 years.
- A sum of Rs 62 crore is also sanctioned for the construction of an alternative approach path with sheds and a bus depot near **Vishnupad Temple in Gaya**.

Famous Tourist Places in Bihar: [Mahabodhi Temple Complex in Bodhgaya](#), Vishwa Shanti Stupa in Rajgir, Nalanda, Ancient city of Patliputra, [Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve](#) in the West Champaran, etc.,

Approval of Infrastructure Projects | Bihar | 28 Dec 2023

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet **approved the infrastructure projects in Bihar and the North-East worth over Rs.5,500 crore.**

- Projects worth Rs.2,486.78 crore for improvement and widening of the 135-km stretch of the **national highway from Khowai to Harina in Tripura are also approved** by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

Note

The CCEA **also approved the [Minimum Support Price \(MSP\)](#) for copra for 2024.**

Key Points

- A **4.56 km-long six-lane bridge** over the Ganga connecting Digha and Sonapur in Bihar was approved by the cabinet.
 - Digha, in Patna district, and Sonapur, in Saran district, are **currently connected by a rail-cum-road bridge** that can be used by light vehicles only.
 - According to the Information and Broadcasting Minister, the **new bridge would connect north and south Bihar**, and would allow transport by heavy vehicles.
 - The project, which will take 42 months to complete, **would also improve connectivity for sites of Buddhist pilgrimage like Vaishali.**
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Cooking Gas Cylinder Subsidy Yojana | Rajasthan | 28 Dec 2023

Why in News?

Recently, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced that **Ujjwala gas cylinders will now be available at Rs 450** in the state from 1st January 2024.

Key Points

- The subsidy would be transferred into the account of the beneficiary women, who come under the [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \(PMUY\)](#) and those who hold the **Below Poverty Line (BPL) card**.
 - The scheme name is now changed from **Indira Gandhi Cylinder Subsidy Scheme to Cooking Gas Cylinder Subsidy Yojana**.
- The beneficiaries can avail the cheap cylinder by getting themselves registered at the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yojana**.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- The scheme was **launched on 1st May 2016** in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - It was **introduced by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG)**, as a flagship scheme **with an objective to make clean cooking fuel such as LPG available to the rural and deprived households** which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.
 - **Usage of traditional cooking fuels had detrimental impacts** on the health of rural women as well as on the environment.
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Ayodhya Dham Junction | Uttar Pradesh | 28 Dec 2023

Why in News?

- Ahead of the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the **city's Ayodhya Junction railway station has been renamed Ayodhya Dham Junction**.
 - The preparations are underway for the inaugural ceremony of the **Ayodhya Ram temple on 22 January 2024**.

Key Points

- On 30th December, the grand railway station and airport **will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The railway station will comprise lifts, a tourist information center, and medical facilities. This railway station is **said to have mythological importance as much as it is modern**.
 - With refurbished platforms, new signboards, escalators, and murals of Lord Ram painted on the walls, it is **built to resemble a grand temple from the outside and is equipped with equally modern facilities** on the inside.

- The building's frontage has a **colonnade having a concrete core with a cladding of sandstone**, with tall round pillars on the side ends having a cladding of sandstone to add a traditional look.



Multiple Projects in Tehri | Uttarakhand | 28 Dec 2023

Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand **inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 160 projects worth Rs 415 crore in Tehri.**

Key Points

- During the event, the CM **honored the members of women's [self-help groups](#)** and highlighted the role played by women of Uttarakhand in the **statehood movement and the development of the state.**
 - To underline the steps being taken by the state government for women's empowerment, the CM mentioned **30% reservation for women** in government jobs and emphasized on schemes such as **Mukhya Mantri Maha Lakshmi Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Aanchal Amrit Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Swarojgar Yojana.**
- He also administered an oath to students to make **Uttarakhand drug-free by 2025.**